

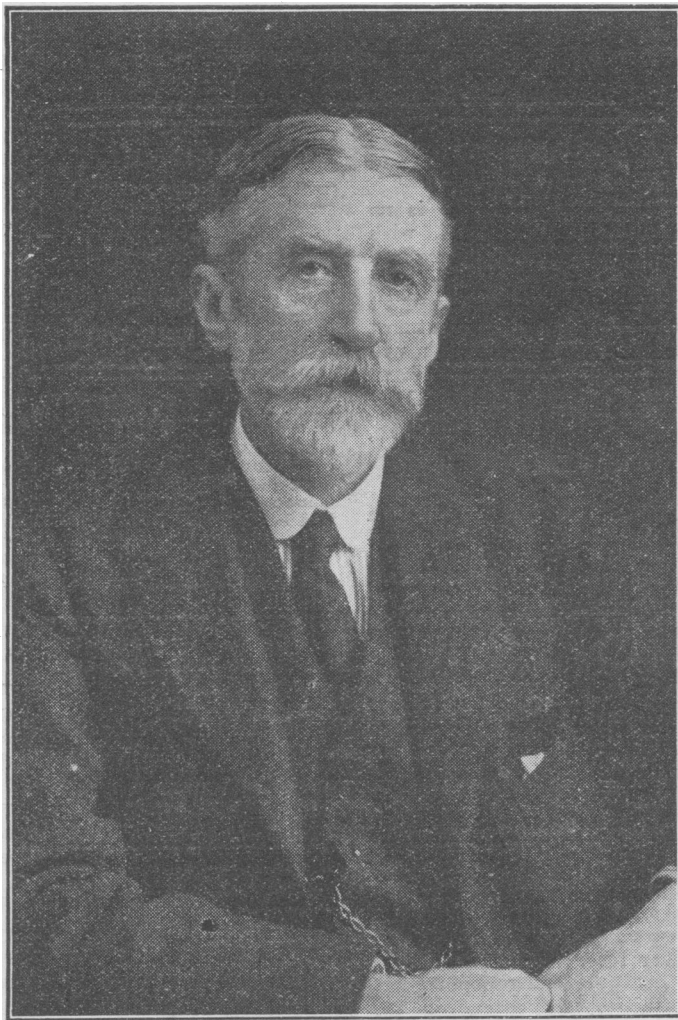
Obituary.

DIARMID NOËL PATON, B.Sc., M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.,
Late Regius Professor of Physiology in the University of Glasgow.

D. NOËL PATON—whose death on Sunday, September 30th, at Stobo, Peeblesshire, was briefly announced in our last issue—had only recently intimated his desire to retire from the professorship of physiology in the University of Glasgow—in fact, the necessary appointments in consequence of his resignation have not yet been made. He was a born and indefatigable worker, and had always prayed that he might be taken away suddenly and after his power for work had gone. Since his official resignation some few weeks ago he had not been quite in his usual health, and on Sunday, during a walk to his favourite Tweed, where many a happy day had been spent casting the fly and no doubt meditating on the problems of life which he was so fond of probing, he passed suddenly away.

Diarmid Noël Paton was born in Edinburgh in March, 1859. He was the eldest son of Sir Joseph Noël Paton, the distinguished artist and Royal Scottish Academician, and nephew of Waller Hugh Paton, another well-known painter, so that there is little wonder that he inherited a distinctly artistic temperament. He received his early education at Edinburgh Academy, where, as Professor Cathcart has noted, he had as classmates "W. Hardman, afterwards professor of zoology at Liverpool, John Haldane, the Oxford physiologist and philosopher, and D'Arcy Thompson, the present occupant of the chair of zoology at St. Andrews." It is said that it was at Edinburgh Academy where his bias towards science first declared itself, and one wonders what was the influence which led this galaxy of talent in this special direction. From the Academy Noël Paton passed to the University in his native town, and first graduated in science in 1880, when he was awarded the Baxter Scholarship for special distinction. In 1882 he received the degrees of M.B., C.M. with first-class honours, a performance which was repeated in 1885, when he was awarded a gold medal for the thesis which he submitted for the degree of M.D. After graduation he spent some time in post-graduate study in Vienna, returning again to Edinburgh to serve as house-physician, first in the Royal Infirmary, and later in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. These latter experiences undoubtedly influenced his outlook and sympathies, for most of Paton's energies have been devoted to the study of eminently practical aspects of medicine, as his work on diabetes, rickets, and nutrition amply testifies. In 1884 he was offered and accepted a biological fellowship in the physiological department at Edinburgh University, under his old teacher, Professor Rutherford. In 1889 he was appointed

director of the research laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and thus was able to devote his whole time to medical research and teaching. During this period he made many contributions to medical literature and carried on a most successful extramural class of physiology at the Surgeons' Hall, so that he was peculiarly equipped for the professorship of physiology in the University of Glasgow, to which the King appointed him in 1906. In 1914 his position in the scientific world was acknowledged by his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in virtue of his gifts as an investigator he served as a member of the Medical Research Council from 1918 till 1923. In 1919 his Alma Mater, Edinburgh University, conferred on him the honorary degree of LL.D.



PROFESSOR D. NOËL PATON, M.D., F.R.S.

It is as the Regius Professor of Physiology in the University of Glasgow that Noël Paton will be chiefly identified. This is most fitting, since he spent his most vigorous years in unremitting work on her behalf and that of her students. Without doubt Paton was one of the most ideal professors in the medical faculty of the University of Glasgow within living memory, for he possessed in a marked degree that rare combination of qualities so essential for the head of a university department. One often hears of the professor who goes on delivering the same lectures year after year. Not so Paton, who was a firm believer in the doctrine that his chief duty as a teacher is to make the student an observer and a true student of nature. In order, therefore, that the student might commence on his study of medicine and surgery with a well-equipped mind so far as physiology is concerned, a most important attribute as the old name of his subject "Institutes of Medicine" signifies, Paton would not infrequently revise completely and rearrange his whole course of instruction. This meant a considerable amount of labour and

organization, as he always had a large department under his care, but this he considered well expended if his aim was fulfilled. This aspect of Noël Paton's work as a teacher cannot be too strongly emphasized.

But the teaching of the student in the elements of physiology was not Paton's only interest, important as this may be in giving to the youth a sane outlook; like all great teachers, he appreciated that his ignorance was greater than his knowledge, and all his life he was an energetic explorer into the unknown fields. Invariably he was working at some problem of life, and consequently has left his impress on many aspects of physiology and medicine. His work on urea, the physiology and pathology of the parathyroid glands, on respiration, his dietary studies of the labouring classes, and his investigation of the relationship between poverty, nutrition, and growth are all of the first importance, and will require serious consideration by all subsequent workers.

Paton was a true and an able researcher; he was always asking himself the why and the wherefore; he could not

deceive himself by a mere play of words, and he was never ashamed of admitting his ignorance. He might have theories, but he frankly admitted that they were theories and merely signposts for directions of inquiry. He was also undoubtedly possessed of the rare faculty of imagination, which is not surprising when we recollect that both his father and uncle were distinguished artists.

As well as being a searcher after truth himself, he had the gift of inspiring others with the same ambition, and no man ever attracted a larger band of workers round him. His department was always open to anyone who needed facilities to work at a problem, and when once a man or woman gained entrance to a corner in his workshop Paton gave of his advice and help in no stinted fashion. His was the department to which all those eager to engage in comparative medicine and surgery turned. Not only was he an excellent director, but he was at the same time an ideal co-worker. He was a stimulating colleague; he always took a big share in the work of any investigation with which he was associated; and he gave and took criticism in the freest manner, so that at the end of the task one's admiration for his mental powers and regard for his genuineness were enhanced.

That Paton was a big and generous man there is no question. He had a great presence; he was tall, with regular, almost beautiful, features, and a kindly expression. He was as open as the day; in fact, his frankness and his loyalty to friends and his intolerance of dishonesty must often have brought trouble to himself. With the utmost truth it may be said that his is a memory which will remain as a great stimulus to a vast number of students and co-workers.

L. F.

[The photograph reproduced is by J. Russell and Sons, Ltd., London.]

Dr. JAMES THOMAS CURRIE LAING, who died in London on October 7th at the age of 57, received his medical education at Edinburgh, where he graduated M.B., C.M. in 1892. He was a member of the British Medical Association. We are indebted to Sir James Purves-Stewart for the following appreciation: The death of Dr. J. T. C. Laing, or "Jimmy Laing," as he was affectionately called by his friends, colleagues, and patients, comes as a shock and an irreparable loss to all who knew him. Jimmy Laing was the finest type of Scot, a man of strikingly handsome physique and athletic build, tall, lean, and muscular, in his youth a fine boxer and throughout his life a keen sportsman. After graduating in Edinburgh in 1892 he was for a time house-surgeon to the late Professor Annandale. He then lived several adventurous years, first at the Klondyke gold rush, when he held the post of assistant surgeon at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Dawson City, and later as a surgeon attached to the Canadian Scouts in the South African war. Subsequently he was induced to settle in London, where, by sheer force of personality, he speedily built up a practice of ever-increasing importance, not confined to London, but ultimately extending far beyond it. During the late war he did valuable work in London as physician to various hospitals for officers, and was mentioned in dispatches. For many years he was the popular secretary of the Edinburgh University Club of London, and later its vice-president. Up till about a year ago he sustained the burden of a large practice, apparently without effort. It then became evident to his friends that his physical strength was flagging. Despite a voyage to South Africa early in the present year, he found himself unable to continue his work in London, and accordingly spent the summer quietly in Scotland until a few days ago. He then returned to his home in London, where he rapidly succumbed to a pulmonary affection at the age of 57. Success never spoiled him, nor did he ever waver in loyalty to his friends. There was a singular charm about him which seemed automatically to attract the affection of his fellow men. His loss leaves a gap in the wide circle of his friends throughout the country which cannot be filled. If it be true of the good man that his works do live after him, then surely Jimmy Laing's memory will remain warm in the hearts of all who had the privilege of his friendship. Gay, debonair, humorous, modest, kindly, and wise, every-

one who knew him will agree that he possessed all these qualities. He leaves behind him a widow and youthful daughter and son, to whom the deep sympathy of his friends will be extended.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of 73, of Professor HOLGER RASMUS EMIL MYGIND, who was a pioneer of otology and laryngology in Denmark. He was the author of works on congenital deafness and deaf-mutism, and of a small textbook on diseases of the upper respiratory tract. An English translation of his work on deaf-mutism appeared in 1894. He had many friends in England, and his widow is the daughter of Mr. S. Nash, formerly Danish consul at Cardiff.

The following well-known foreign medical men have died recently: Dr. PROKOP FREIHERR VON ROKITANSKY, professor of medical pathology and therapeutics at Innsbruck; Dr. GUSTAV VON SCHLEICH, professor of ophthalmology at Tübingen; and Professor H. VON BARDELEBEN, a Berlin gynaecologist, aged 54.

Universities and Colleges.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE outgoing Vice-Chancellor, the Rev. G. A. Weekes, in the course of his valedictory address in the Senate House on October 1st, referred to the recent offer by the International Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation to contribute £250,000 to the University Library Building Fund, and explained that this munificent offer formed part of a larger proposal to provide for new and much needed developments in the physical and biological studies of the University. The offer in its entirety amounted to a gift of £700,000, on condition that the University should raise the balance of the sum required for the completion of the whole scheme. The offer had been considered, with approval, by the Council, the General Board, and the Financial Board, but had not as yet been laid before the University. Mr. Weekes referred also to the loss sustained by the University through the death of Mr. G. E. Wherry, consulting surgeon to Addenbrooke's Hospital, and for many years university lecturer in surgery. The building in Tennis Court Road, which has been provided for the departments of pathology and animal pathology by a grant from the trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation and by the Gates Bequest, is now in occupation, and will be ready for the formal opening ceremony next term.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

At the September matriculation there were 100 successful candidates in the first division and 373 in the second division; 27 others took the supplementary certificate in Latin.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B. (Part D).—J. Kak, H. T. Knowles, J. Loofe, and G. J. Marks.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

D.P.H.—Enid Baile, C. A. Birch, Margaret W. Blackwood, R. T. Chadwick, A. Wahid.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

THE following candidates have been approved at the examination indicated:

FINAL M.B., CH.B.—T. Anderson, T. H. Anderson, J. Barr, N. Bernstein, D. Cameron, I. Campbell, H. Chapman, T. L. Chapman, W. J. Christie, Mary C. Clark, J. E. H. Cogan, E. Collier, R. Cordiner, W. L. Cuthbert, N. Douglas, G. S. Easton, T. Elliott, J. Ferguson, W. J. L. Francis, J. B. Gaylor, D. Glen, R. E. Glen, Christina A. Greenshields, Elizabeth Grierson, B. Gyar, D. M. Hart, T. A. Haslett, J. B. Henderson, J. A. Hill, J. Jamieson, Elizabeth P. Macadam, D. Macartney, W. G. T. Macfie, A. M. Macgregor, A. MacInnes, C. MacKenzie, W. Mackie, G. MacKinnon, H. R. MacLennan, J. S. McMillan, A. Macnab, W. H. W. McWhirter, *A. Miller, J. G. Miller, R. G. Miller, *G. L. Montgomery, J. V. Ogilvie, W. L. Read, W. Robertson, J. A. Ronghead, D. Russell, T. S. Scott, J. Simpson, C. E. Stewart, Margaret O. Templeton, A. G. Thomson, J. Tidd, J. Trotter, A. Weir, Bessie L. M. Weir, C. H. Wilkie, W. J. Woodward, *J. Yonace, D. K. M. Chalmers, D. M. Haugh, Mary E. Minihan, E. A. Robertson.

* With distinction in midwifery.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

THE annual meeting of Fellows and Members will be held at the College, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., on Thursday, November 15th, at 3 p.m.